

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
State of North Carolina

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the State of North Carolina, grateful to Almighty God, the Sovereign Ruler of Nations, for the preservation of the American Union, and the existence of our civil, political and religious liberties, and acknowledging our dependence upon Him for the continuance of those blessings to us and our posterity, do for the more certain security thereof, and for the better government of this State, ordain and establish this Constitution:

Preamble.

ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

That the great, general and essential principles of liberty and free government may be recognized and established, and that the relations of this State to the Union and Government of the United States, and those of the people of this State to the rest of the American people, may be defined and affirmed, we do declare:

SECTION 1. *The equality and rights of men.* That we hold it to be self-evident that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, the enjoyment of the fruits of their own labor, and the pursuit of happiness.

The equality and unalienable rights of men.

SEC. 2. *Political power and government.* That all political power is vested in, and derived from, the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Political power and government.

SEC. 3. *Internal government of the State.* That the people of this State have the inherent, sole and exclusive right of regulating the internal government and policies thereof, and of altering and abolishing their Constitution and form of government whenever it may be necessary for their safety and happiness; but every such right should be exercised in pursuance of the law, and consistently with the Constitution of the United States.

Internal government of the State.

SEC. 4. *That there is no right to secede.* That this State shall ever remain a member of the American Union; that the people thereof are a part of the American Nation; that there is no right on the part of the State to secede, and that all

That there is no right to secede.